























From: EPA News [noreply@cision.com]
Sent: 10/26/2021 12:39:10 PM
To: Harris, Michael [harris.michael@epa.gov]
Subject: EPA Chicago - Daily Media Report - Tuesday, October 26, 2021


EPA Chicago - Daily Media Report - Tuesday, October 26, 2021

Report Overview:

Total Clips (6)
 Air - Quality; Air - Toxics (1)
 Grants (1)
 Water - Drinking (2)
 Water - Surface (1)
 Other (1)

Headline	Date	Outlet	Outlet State	
Air - Quality; Air - Toxics (1)				
 Air pollution in Chicago area impacts communities of color most	10/26/2021	WLS-TV Online	IL	  
Grants (1)				
 \$500K will help Grand Rapids, GRCC find water treatment workers	10/26/2021	WOOD-TV Online	MI	  
Water - Drinking (2)				
 Ohio EPA reports increase of salt in drinking water	10/26/2021	Springfield News-Sun Online	OH	  
 Activist: Water filing forced gov's hand	10/25/2021	Detroit News, The	MI	 
Water - Surface (1)				
 Potentially toxic algae issues rise; Reports of problems have increased across Michigan	10/25/2021	Lansing State Journal	MI	 
Other (1)				
 Toledo-based manufacturer to	10/25/2021	Blade Online, The	OH	  

invest \$4 million
in long-vacant
West Toledo
property

News Headline: Air pollution in Chicago area impacts communities of color most | 


News Date: 10/26/2021

Outlet Full Name: WLS-TV Online

Outlet State: IL

News Text: CHICAGO (WLS) -- Communities of color are more likely to be impacted by air pollution in the Chicago area than white people. That's...

[Return to Top](#)

News Headline: \$500K will help Grand Rapids, GRCC find water treatment workers | 


News Date: 10/26/2021

Outlet Full Name: WOOD-TV Online

Outlet State: MI

News Text: ...within the community to pursue a career in the water industry." The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is distributing...

[Return to Top](#)

News Headline: Ohio EPA reports increase of salt in drinking water | 


News Date: 10/26/2021

Outlet Full Name: Springfield News-Sun Online

Outlet State: OH

News Text: ...now compared to 40 years ago, according to monitoring done by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, the Hamilton to New...

[Return to Top](#)

News Headline: Activist: Water filing forced gov's hand | 

News Date: 10/25/2021

Outlet Full Name: Detroit News, The

Outlet State: MI

News Text: By Beth LeBlanc, , Craig Mauger, and Melissa Nann Burke

The Detroit News

A vocal Benton Harbor activist said Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's administration has been "deceiving" in explaining what inspired expanded efforts to combat the southwest Michigan city's water crisis in recent weeks.

The Rev. Edward Pinkney, president of the Benton Harbor Community Water Council, said the true cause of the state's actions was an emergency petition filed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Sept. 9. The filing asked the EPA to provide an immediate source of safe drinking water in schools and child care facilities in Benton Harbor.

"If we had not filed that petition, it would have been three, four more years in the Black city of Benton Harbor with

nothing being done," Pinkney said during a taping of WKAR's "Off the Record" television show.

The filing with the EPA "forced" the Whitmer administration's hands, Pinkney said.

In the weeks following the petition, the state expanded access to bottled water in Benton Harbor, a city whose drinking water has been found to have elevated lead levels for three years.

In a statement Oct. 6, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services said the measures were being taken "out of an abundance of caution," and Benton Harbor residents were encouraged to use bottled water for cooking, drinking, brushing teeth, rinsing foods and mixing powdered infant formula.

During a Michigan House Oversight Committee hearing on Thursday, Eric Oswald, director of the water division within the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, suggested an issue with lead nanoparticles bypassing filters in New Jersey spurred the heightened sense of caution about the situation in Benton Harbor.

"Until we can validate that the filters are absolutely effective, we want to make sure we're cautious there," Oswald told lawmakers.

But Pinkney said it was the petition that "got the ball rolling." He noted that Whitmer's office announced a clean water initiative that included \$20 million in proposed funding to remove lead service lines in Benton Harbor on Sept. 8, a day before the petition was filed. Someone who knew about the petition had "leaked" information about it to Whitmer's team, Pinkney said.

"She got a heads-up from someone," he said.

Pinkney made the comment a day before Whitmer skipped a scheduled campaign stop in Virginia on Saturday morning after criticism from Republicans, who argued she should be focused on the water crisis in Benton Harbor. Whitmer's attendance was only tentative at the event in Arlington County ahead of Virginia's Nov. 2 gubernatorial election, said Maeve Coyle, communications director for Whitmer's campaign.

Moments of silence

Most of the Michigan delegation gathered Tuesday evening on the floor of the U.S. House to honor the memories of two former lawmakers who died the same week - former Reps. Dale Kildee of Flint and Dan Benishek of Crystal Falls.

They led the chamber in a moment of silence for the men. Kildee served 36 years in the House, retiring in 2013, and Benishek served six, retiring in 2017.

"He believed this place, this Congress and our government, could be a force for good," said Kildee's nephew, Rep. Dan Kildee, D-Flint Township.

"I think his greatest contribution was that he served here so long and left here with so many friends because he served here with dignity, with respect for everyone - regardless of their position or their point of view. I hope we can remember him for that."

Benishek's successor, Rep. Jack Bergman of Watersmeet, gave a tribute to "Dr. Dan," noting he loved to tell stories of his off-grid cabin where he ate off the land and what he had hunted.

"Dr. Dan's passing is a significant loss to our state. Those of us who call Michigan home have each benefited from his life and service, and are grateful for the impacts he made. He did make a difference. He loved the outdoors, like no one, you wouldn't believe," Bergman said. "He was a man truly of the Upper Peninsula."

Nessel takes dig at Trudeau

Attorney General Dana Nessel took to Twitter on Tuesday to express her displeasure with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and his administration's stance on the future of Enbridge's Line 5 oil pipeline.

In response to a tweet that tagged the Plymouth Democrat and Canadian leader, Nessel asked that she not be included in future tweets with Trudeau.

"We're not on speaking terms right now and I've officially removed him from my list of 'Men I would date if I wasn't

married and gay.' You're welcome @GavinNewsome," Nessel wrote, followed by a second tweet containing the hashtag "shutdownline5".

The social media message comes after Canada this month formally invoked treaty negotiations with the United States over Whitmer's plans to shutter the line. Canada has maintained such action would violate a 1977 treaty that prevents either country from interfering in transit pipelines that travel through both countries.

A lawyer for the government of Canada notified the court of its treaty invocation Oct. 4 and asked the judge to push pause on the case while negotiations ensue. The state of Michigan and Enbridge followed shortly thereafter with their own letters to the court for and against that pause.

U.S. District Judge Janet Neff chided the whole lot of them last week, striking the letters from the record on the basis that requests to the court should be in the form of motions or official briefs.

[Return to Top](#)

News Headline: Potentially toxic algae issues rise; Reports of problems have increased across Michigan | 

News Date: 10/25/2021

Outlet Full Name: Lansing State Journal

Outlet State: MI

News Text: MERIDIAN TWP. - Blue-green algae waits for long, sunny days and still waters to bloom, growing potentially toxic surface scum and settling like spilled paint on bodies of water around the world.

Most recently, it made its home in Lake Lansing.

Also called cyanobacteria, these single-celled microscopic organisms are natural components of lakes and ponds. The algae is usually harmless, and can even have health benefits in the form of the popular supplement spirulina.

But in the wrong conditions, blue-green algae blooms can grow rapidly and produce a dangerous toxin.

Blooms like the one in Lake Lansing surface every few months in Michigan, usually stretching into the fall. Gary Kolhepp, EGLE's supervisor for the Lake Michigan Surface Water Assessment Section, said there have been more reports in recent years.

"As temperatures get warmer, we have more hot days longer into the year," Kolhepp said. "If you believe predictions on climate, we would expect longer periods of blooms in the years to come."

After reports of the Lake Lansing bloom, EGLE ran rapid tests on two samples from different parts of the lake. Both contained toxin levels above the EPA's safe limit.

However, it's not feasible to test for toxins at each reported bloom. Blooms can dissipate within days or weeks, and some that test under the EPA's level are perfectly capable of producing toxins at any time.

"Our motto is, when in doubt, stay out when you see a bloom," Kolhepp said. "Even if we go and test it and say the toxin is not present, that doesn't mean the toxin won't be there the next day, the next week, whatever."

The state started taking harmful algal blooms more seriously after the 2014 Toledo water crisis, where several blooms in the western basin of Lake Erie interrupted access to drinking water for hundreds of thousands in Toledo, Ohio.

The algae has no known remedies and can be fatal to pets who ingest it, either by drinking the water or cleaning themselves off later. Dogs exposed to the algae have died or developed neurological conditions, with their eyes glazing over or becoming unresponsive.

It's less dangerous for humans, with the most common symptoms being a rash or itchy skin that can be mitigated by washing off immediately after exposure.

A future with more cyanobacteria blooms could harm recreation at Lake Lansing. Basic precaution to avoid adverse

health effects from cyanobacteria is to stay out of the water when present. That means lake swimming could be increasingly at risk if the likely bloom window for blue-green algae continues to extend.

Additionally, Kolhepp said there's evidence cyanobacteria can become aerosolized and spread through the air when someone paddles through a bloom and breathes in potentially toxic particles. Those affected have reported feeling dizzy, nauseous and lightheaded, which could present safety hazards on a kayak or sailboat. Repeated exposure can result in liver damage.

Another factor that could be worsening blooms is the presence of Zebra mussels, an established invasive species found in Michigan's lakes. When filter-feeding, they prefer nonharmful green algae and spit out the cyanobacteria, leaving them more space and food to aid growth.

Also, blooms are more likely to occur in nutrient-rich bodies of water - meaning considerably polluted. The additional detritus and runoff such as the nitrogen and phosphorus found in fertilizer feeds blue-green algae growth.


Younes Ishraidi, Meridian Township's chief engineer and a member of the Lake Lansing Advisory Committee, said this runoff is a particular issue due to Lake Lansing's lack of natural springs.

"It's really a bowl in the ground, and it gets runoff from the surrounding areas," he said. "Everything bad and good that goes into the water has an effect, since we don't have fresh water coming into the lake."

Suspicious looking algae should be reported to EGLE by calling the Environmental Assistance Center at 1-800-662-9278 or through AlgaeBloom@Michigan.gov

Contact reporter Annabel Aguiarat aaguiar@lsjnews.com or 517-449-8248.

[Return to Top](#)

News Headline: Toledo-based manufacturer to invest \$4 million in long-vacant West Toledo property | 

News Date: 10/25/2021

Outlet Full Name: Blade Online, The

Outlet State: OH

News Text: ...more than 4,000 tires illegally dumped there that the land bank and Ohio Environmental Protection Agency cleared out before...

[Return to Top](#)

Powered by **CISION**